

DPD-6496-59

24 September 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief/DPD

THROUGH : Chief, Developments Branch/DPD

SUBJECT : Helio Conference at Edwards Air Force Base

1. On 17 September 1959, a conference was held at Edwards Air Force Base, California, to discuss the Air Force evaluation of the Helio 395 aircraft and the subsequent "Preliminary Report of Test Results." [redacted] represented this Headquarters at the meeting. The Edwards personnel in attendance were: Lt. Col C. E. Anderson, Lt Col W. A. Ballentine, Capt S. H. Nelson, Mr. F. N. Stoliker, Capt R. M. Dohy, and Mr. J. Calderon.

2. The meeting was arranged to discuss the differences of opinions between the operational users of the Helio and the Air Force Flight Test Center. In reality, the primary difference can be attributed to a lack of definition of mission utilization for the aircraft. The requirement for a test program on the Helio was mistakenly interpreted as an evaluation of all-weather, unprepared field, STOL operation only. Most comments on the aircraft handling characteristics and utilization were based on a "drag-in" final approach of 35 mph rather than the normal approach speed of 55 mph. The pilot observations and handling characteristics are significantly different at the two approach airspeeds. The normal Performance - Stability and Control Phase IV Evaluation report would not be concentrated on one aspect of aircraft operation. A more general report should be more favorable to the Helio than the Preliminary Evaluation Report.

3. In view of the conference at Edwards Air Force Base, it is recommended that the Air Force Flight Test Center be requested to submit for publication and normal Air Force distribution a final report of the Helio test program using the normal Phase IV evaluation techniques as the basis for the report rather than being specifically directed toward STOL operation. It is also recommended that this request be initiated by Major Hippert through the offices of Doctor Charyk, General Denler, and Colonel McCoy. Further, it is recommended that

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

[redacted] review the final report immediately prior to final typing. This last recommendation was requested by the Edwards Air Force Base test team.

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[redacted]
Major, USAF

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CONCURRENCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3

SIGNED

[redacted]
Colonel, USAF

30 SEP 1959

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DPD-DB/P [redacted] :ansob

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